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The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter May 1993

CENTER SCENE

WE DID IT!

The culmination of several years of hard work and cooperation by BLM employees in the Washington Office, Service Center, and field offices came on April 8, 1993, with the award of the ALMRS/Modernization contract. The contract was awarded to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) of Calverton, Maryland, for the base amount of $13.75 million. If BLM exercises all options in the contract, it has a potential value of $400 million over the next 10 years.

CSC will provide automated data processing hardware and commercial off-the-shelf software, including operating system software and data base management, spatial data management, and office automation capabilities. In addition, CSC will provide software development and conversion services and support, systems implementation and installation support, and associated documentation and training, along with hardware and software systems maintenance support at more than 150 designated BLM sites around the country.

With the award of the contract, the phased implementation of the ALMRS/Modernization Project can now begin. First, the Bureau will replace its outdated administrative systems computers with new equipment and will supplement its telecommunications support. Then the ALMRS database and software will be installed to modernize and automate more than 1 billion administrative, land, and mineral paper records managed by BLM.

Even though the contract award is behind us, there is much work yet to come. Service Center Director Marv LeNoue says, "We have reached a major milestone with the award of this contract, but this is no time to kick back and...just let this new stuff roll in." He continues, "Over the next few years, this Bureau will work harder on automation technology, technical management, data management, and records management than it ever has before."

Automation of the Bureau's paper records will improve efficiency, enhance decision-making capabilities, and make public land records more accessible to State and local governments, Federal agencies, and other interested parties.

Special thanks to Tom Gorey, WO Public Affairs, for his contributions to this article.

Service Center employees celebrate the contract award at a picnic, while fortifying themselves for the hard work yet to come.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

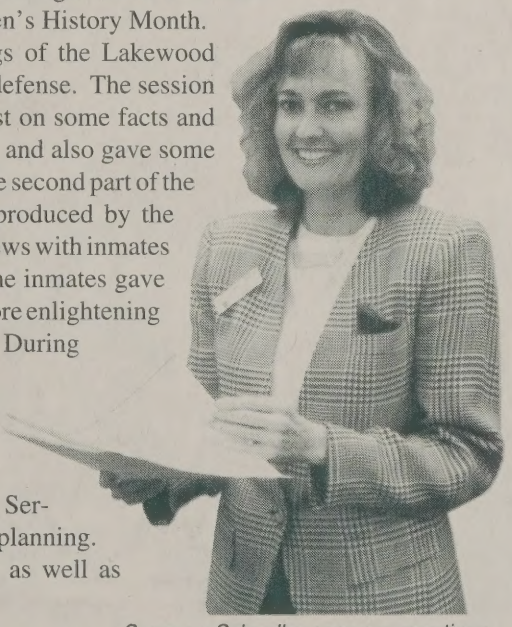
The Federal Women's Program (FWP) recently sponsored three informative sessions for Service Center employees. Special Emphasis Program Manager Anne Westlake arranged the sessions as part of National Women's History Month.

On Friday, March 19, Captain Al Youngs of the Lakewood Police Department presented a session on self-defense. The session was divided into three parts. Youngs spoke first on some facts and common fallacies regarding the crime of rape, and also gave some valuable tips on how to protect ourselves. The second part of the program was a graphic, disturbing video produced by the Denver Police Department showing interviews with inmates who had committed rape and murder. The inmates gave their reasons for their crimes, and even more enlightening and frightening, their mode of operation. During the last part of the program, participants took part in some basic, hands-on, self-defense maneuvers.

For the program on Thursday, March 25, Suzanne Schuelke from IDS Financial Services, Inc., gave a presentation on financial planning. Schuelke explained marginal tax brackets as well as

Sandy Dilbeck practices a self-defense maneuver on Anne Westlake as Anne prepares herself for the blow.

continued . . .



Suzanne Schuelke answers questions pertaining to financial planning.

National Women's History Month continued . . .

rules pertaining to pension plans and IRAs. She also discussed the Thrift Savings Plan and gave an illustration of how taxes and inflation affect savings. In addition, Schuelke reviewed the advantages, disadvantages, and risks of investment options, such as annuities, corporate and municipal bonds, mutual funds, real estate, and stocks.

The last session on Friday, March 26, was an informative talk by Lynn Wright, Director of The Mammography Center. Wright explained how vital it is for women aged 18 and older to do a breast self-examination monthly. Women are advised to have periodic mammograms, starting at the age of 35, and to have a clinical breast exam by a doctor at least once a year. Breast cancer is the No. 2 killer of women in the United States (lung cancer is No. 1). In Colorado, it is No. 1. The best weapon in the fight against breast cancer is early detection.

PERSONNEL NEWS

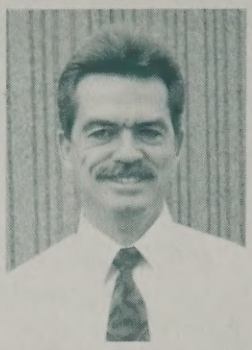
New Employees:

Roberta Truax, Documentation Control Assistant, SC-323

Separations:

James Schloss, Specifications Writer, SC-673

Keith Smith, Duplicating Equipment Operator, SC-657



THE GIFT OF LIFE

Those who have met Keven Huffstutler, an employee in the ADP and Telecommunications Support Section, know that he enjoys life and lives it to the fullest. You see, Keven is alive today because of a liver transplant.

When Keven was 13, he was struck by a car. His injuries required him to undergo several surgeries and blood transfusions. Nearly 25 years later, he began to experience an unidentifiable fatigue. In 1987, he was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver. It was later determined that the cirrhosis was caused by hepatitis C, a recently identified strain of hepatitis believed to be transmitted through blood.

By 1990, the disease had progressed, and Keven's liver was no longer able to perform its vital function. His name was placed on the waiting list for a transplant. Without a transplant, Keven was terminally ill with no hope of surviving beyond Christmas.

Keven was lucky—his name was only on the list for 2 months. He received his transplant in May 1990, a month after his wife Lynn had given birth to their first child. Keven credits Lynn as being a hero through the ordeal. He says, "The patients aren't the heroes because they *have* to go through the surgery. But the spouses go through it right alongside them."

Keven's donor was a 28-year-old man, Michael Bachicha, who died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. Keven corresponded with the Bachicha family after the surgery, and has since met some of them. According to Keven, this is not usually encouraged in transplant cases, but he feels it was beneficial to him because it allowed him to express his gratitude and it helped the family to work through their grief.

Since the surgery, Keven has experienced a few problems, including a couple of episodes of rejection that were treatable with drugs. Keven says, "Now my doctors tell me I will die *with* the disease instead of *because* of it." The surgery has changed his outlook on life. He takes much better care of himself and has a greater understanding and empathy for those who are ill. He is appreciative of the benefits and the regular hours his Government job provides, so that he can learn to relax and spend more time with his family—which is now his top priority.

Keven feels it is important to give something back to the transplant community. He occasionally counsels transplant patients, both before and after surgery. He has served as president of the local chapter of the Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO) and currently works with the Transplant Council of the Rockies (TCOR), an organization that provides information and speakers to increase public awareness. In addition, he and Michael's mother Maria have been guest speakers at a meeting of Federal employees sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Organ Transplantation; they have also worked on other transplant projects together.

Like most of us, Keven had never given organ and tissue donation serious thought until he needed a transplant, but now he is an advocate. According to Keven, "Seven people die every day in need of an organ they can't get. And a new person is added to the list of those in need every 20 minutes in the U.S.—many of them are children."

Keven says, "Not everyone can be a donor. Donors must be on life support and brain dead. They can't just die in the street." To be an organ or tissue donor, you should sign a donor card or the back of your driver's license. But most importantly, you must make your wishes known to your family. Ultimately, the decision is theirs once you are gone.

The success rate of transplantations nationally is 70 percent after 5 years. At University Hospital in Denver, where Keven received his "new" liver, the success rate is 86 percent after 1 year and 78 percent after 3 years. If you would like more information about being an organ or tissue donor, or if you would like a donor card, you can contact Keven at 303-236-6580 or TCOR at 303-744-1264.